

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: E. Franzoi et al.

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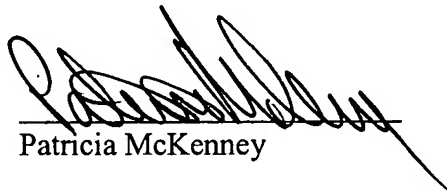
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Patricia McKenney

Mail Stop Application
Commissioner of Patents
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22310-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified In response to the Office Action mailed March 3, 2004, made final, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.